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Claims

[c1] 1. A cylinder block for an internal combustion engine having a lower, crankcase receiving portion and an upper, cylinder head receiving portion, at least one cylinder bore formed therein extending between said lower and upper portions and surrounded at least in part by a coolant jacket, and a pump receiving portion formed at one side of said cylinder block and having a communication passage communicating with a corresponding passage formed in said cylinder block, said communication passage having an upper wall that in inclined upwardly from said pump receiving portion toward the upper portion of said cylinder block to facilitate casting of said cylinder block without the formation of unwanted metal voids.

[c2] 2. A cylinder block as set forth in claim 1, wherein the communication passage terminates in the cylinder block at the upper end thereof.

[c3] 3. A cylinder block as set forth in claim 2, wherein the pump comprises an engine coolant pump and the communication passage communicates with the cooling jacket.

[c4] 4. A cylinder block as set forth in claim 1, further including a pair of axially extending reinforcing ribs each extending transversely outwardly from a central portion of a respective side of the cylinder block.

[c5] 5. A cylinder block as set forth in claim 1, wherein the cylinder block forms a plurality of axially spaced cylinder bores and further including a plurality of reinforcing ribs formed on opposite sides of said cylinder block each of which is aligned with the axis of a respective one of said cylinder bores.

[c6] 6.A cylinder block as set forth in claim 5, further including a pair of axially extending reinforcing ribs each extending transversely outwardly from a central portion of a respective side of the cylinder block.

[c7] 7. A cylinder block as set forth in claim 6, wherein the communication passage terminates in the cylinder block at the upper end thereof.

[c8] 8. A cylinder block as set forth in claim 7, wherein the pump comprises an engine coolant pump and the communication passage communicates with the cooling jacket.